

CATHERINE'S EMBASSY TO FLORENCE

a thousand crossbowmen marched through in the afternoon, and it was proclaimed that every merchant could return in safety to carry on his business, with heavy penalties against any who should molest him. In the evening, the news came that the peace with the Pope had been signed, and that the absolution would soon arrive.¹

It was an honourable and just peace that had been signed at Tivoli on July 28, the Pope on the following day giving leave to all the ecclesiastics of the Florentine dominion freely to celebrate Mass. The Florentines were to pay an indemnity of 250,000 florins in monthly instalments, to annul all ordinances against the Church within two months, to restore all confiscated goods to the churches, monasteries, and hospitals. The Pope on his side would absolve them fully from all censures. Perugia and Citta di Castello were included, and the other colleagues and adherents of the Commune of Florence, who were subjects of the Church, on condition of sending ambassadors to the Pope to subscribe within two months ; and, in the meanwhile, the Pope could not make war upon them. They were practically to retain their liberties, while acknowledging the papal suzerainty, paying an indemnity and their original tribute.² But Florence was too much harassed by internal dissensions to indulge in public rejoicing. Rumours of fresh trouble caused the citizens again to stand to arms on the following day, August 2, and for several days this state of siege continued, the city diligently guarded, and men hourly expecting a new rising.³ Nevertheless, there was a short interval before the tumults began again.

With the conclusion of peace between Florence and the Holy See, Catherine's second great political work was done. In spite

¹ *Diario Compagnano*, in Corazzini, pp. iio-iiiz.

² Gherardi, *op. cit.*, pp. 94-96, 221-223. The absolution was informally announced in Santo Spirito by Fra Agostino della Scarperia on August 10, but the actual bulls did not arrive until October. On October 23, the Bishop of Volterra and Fra Francesco of Orvieto solemnly absolved the city in the name of Pope Urban VI. Cf. *Anonimo Fiorentino*, pp. 373, 387, 388.

³ *Diano Compagnano*, *he. cit.*, p. 113.